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STATINTL

Letters to the Editor of The Times

Containment of War

To the Editor:

The Algerian analogy to the Vietnam dilemma which Dr. John Frenster so admirably presented in his letter published June 20 concludes with these words: "... de Gaulle ... has found that a national consensus can only be secured by a willingness to spend an initial popularity for what all humanity knows to be needed."

Exactly. And the implication is that a similar willingness is greatly to be desired on the part of the present Administration in Washington.

But such willingness will demand an entirely new kind of courage: the courage which perceives and declares that in this nuclear age it is the containment of war itself, and not the containment of Communism, which must be the chief objective of our foreign policy. Communism grows out of war; freedom does not. Or, as Norman Thomas has put it, "Liberty will not rise serenely from any shelters to view the agonies of the dying and the corpses of the dead." The old choice which sometimes existed between peace and freedom is no longer valid.

"Losing face," "appeasement," "defeatism," "paper tiger" are ugly epithets which no government likes to have hurled at it. But those responsible for our policy in Vietnam today and tomorrow must be brave enough to suffer them if our humanity is to have any future whatsoever.

Unfortunately, the profiles of such courage are not conspicuous today either in the State Department, the Pentagon, the C.I.A. or the White House, where mankind's fate is currently being decided.

JOHN W. DARR
Seattle, Wash., June 24, 1965

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